

**A) Amendments to the claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A protective poncho type outer garment to be worn about the upper body torso of a person, the garment comprising:

a main body panel having a shoulder portion with a neck opening for passage of a wearer's head and front and back portions open at the sides;

a pair of opposed outwardly extending sleeves respectively secured to opposite sides of said shoulder portion;

said sleeves having forearm and upper arm portions wherein said forearm portions are continuous tubular sleeves and said upper arm portions are open at the bottom for alternate protrusion therethrough of a wearer's arms[.];

a first adjustable waist belt secured to opposite sides of said front portion and having a buckle fastener for securement of said first belt at the back of a wearer;

a second adjustable waist belt secured to opposite sides of said back portion and having a buckle fastener for securement of said second belt at the front of a wearer;

said front and back portions being narrower side to side adjacent said shoulder area;  
and

said narrower portions of said front and back portions being provided by pleats.

Claim 2 (original): The outer garment of claim 1 including elastic distal wrist closures on said forearm portions.

Claim 3 (original): The outer garment of claim 1 including a hood secured to said shoulder portion adjacent said neck opening.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The outer garment of claim 1 wherein said sleeves overlap exterior portions of said shoulder portion at their proximal ends.

Claim 5 (original): The outer garment of claim 4 wherein said upper arm portions of said sleeves expand in area at their proximal ends.

Claims 6 - 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (original): The outer garment of claim 1 including a storage pocket on one of said front and back portions dimensioned for stuffing said garment therein for self-storage.

Claim 11 (original): The outer garment of claim 1 wherein said garment is fabricated of rip stop nylon.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A protective poncho type outer garment to be worn about the upper body torso of a person, the garment comprising:

a main body panel having a shoulder portion with a neck opening for passage of a wearer's head and front and back portions open at the sides;

a pair of opposed outwardly extending sleeves respectively secured to opposite sides of said shoulder portion;

a first adjustable waist belt secured to opposite sides of said front portion and having a buckle fastener for securement of said first belt at the back of a wearer; ~~and~~

a second adjustable waist belt secured to opposite sides of said back portion and having a buckle fastener for securement of said second belt at the front of a wearer[[]];

said front and back portions being narrower side to side adjacent said shoulder portion; and

said narrower portions of said front and back portions being provided by pleats.

Claim 13 (original): The outer garment of claim 12, said sleeves having forearm and upper arm portions wherein said forearm portions are continuous tubular sleeves and said upper arm portions are open at the bottom for alternate protrusion therethrough of a wearer's arms.

Claim 14 (original): The outer garment of claim 13 including elastic distal wrist closures on said forearm portions.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The outer garment of claim 12 wherein said sleeves overlap exterior portions of said shoulder portion at their proximal ends.

Claim 16 (original): The outer garment of claim 15 wherein said upper arm portions of said sleeves expand in area at their proximal ends.

Claims 17 and 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (original): The outer garment of claim 12 including a hood secured to said shoulder portion adjacent said neck opening.

Claim 20 (original): The outer garment of claim 12 including a storage pocket on one of said front and back portions dimensioned for stuffing said garment therein for self-storage.

Claim 21 (original): The outer garment of claim 12 wherein said garment is fabricated of rip stop nylon.

Claim 22 (new): A protective poncho type outer garment to be worn about the upper body torso of a person, the garment comprising:

a main body panel having a shoulder portion with a neck opening for passage of a wearer's head and front and back portions open at the sides;

a pair of opposed outwardly extending sleeves respectively secured to opposite sides of said shoulder portion;

said sleeves having forearm and upper arm portions wherein said forearm portions are continuous tubular sleeves and said upper arm portions are open along the bottom for alternate protrusion therethrough of wearer's arms; and

said upper arm portions secured at their proximal ends to exterior portions of said shoulder and front and back portions.

Claim 23 (new): The outer garment of claim 22 wherein said upper arm portions of said sleeves expand in area at their proximal ends.

Claim 24 (new): The outer garment of claim 22 including a first adjustable waist belt secured to opposite sides of said front portion and having a buckle fastener for securement of said first belt at the back of a wearer.

Claim 25 (new): The outer garment of claim 24 including a second adjustable waist belt secured to opposite sides of said back portion and having a buckle fastener for securement of said second belt at the front of a wearer.

Claim 26 (new): The outer garment of claim 25 wherein said front and back portions are narrower side to side adjacent said shoulder area.

Claim 27 (new): The outer garment of claim 26 wherein said narrower portions of said front and back portions are provided by pleats.